



Ocotillo

Weekly Update

A newsletter for the residents of Glendale's Ocotillo District



Councilmember Norma Alvarez

January 13, 2012

Martin Luther King Holiday Notice.

City of Glendale offices will be closed Monday, Jan. 16, in observance of the Martin Luther King holiday. [Click here](#) for information on service schedules and facility closures.



Glendale Glitters Goes Out With a Bang and a Rockin' Block Party!

Don't miss the finale to Glendale's holiday light display this Saturday, Jan. 14, from 4-11 p.m. with two dozen hot air balloons, ten different bands performing and 1.5 million lights. Plus, the After Glow will feature a concert by tribute band Journey Unauthorized, from 9:30-11 p.m. [Click here](#) for more info!

Water and Sewer Task Force. As you may be aware, the City Council has proposed a new Citizens Task Force on Water and Sewer services. This Task Force will consider all issues related to water and sewer services, including rate structures. Additional information regarding specifics of the Task Force (such as how often they will meet, dates, times, etc.) will be forthcoming.

Please consider an appointment to this Task Force. Glendale residents, including current board and commission members, are eligible to apply. [Click here](#) to fill out an application online, or call the City Council Office at 623-930-2249 for more information.

2012 Ruth Byrne Historic Preservation Award Nominations. The Glendale Historic Preservation Commission is accepting nominations for the 17th Annual Ruth Byrne Historic Preservation Award. The purpose of the award is to recognize individuals or organizations for outstanding contributions to Glendale's historic heritage.

The award is named after Ruth Byrne, a current Glendale native, who continues to make significant contributions to historic preservation in the city of Glendale.

Nomination forms are available at the following locations:

- Glendale Main Library – 59th Avenue and Brown Street
- Velma Teague Library – 58th Avenue and Glendale Avenue
- Foothills Library – 57th Avenue and Union Hills Drive
- Glendale City Hall 2nd Floor Reception Desk – 5850 W. Glendale Ave.
- Website – www.glendaleaz.com/planning/historicpreservation.cfm.

Submitted nomination forms will be reviewed by the Glendale Historic Preservation Commission and the award will be presented in the month of May to coincide with National Historic Preservation Month.

Nominations must be received on or before March 1, 2012 and should be mailed to Jon Froke at the city of Glendale Planning Department, 5850 W Glendale Avenue, Suite 212, Glendale, Arizona 85301; or sent by e-mail to jfroke@glendaleaz.com.

For questions or more information, [click here](#) or call 623-930-2585.

Free Tax Help for Eligible Residents. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax-Aide preparers, trained to IRS certification, can file your taxes for FREE. Get your refund FAST if you e-file and use direct deposit. These services are subject to income eligibility. Did you earn less than \$40,078 last year? You may qualify for several tax credits. The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) alone could pay you up to \$5,751. You have to file to receive the credit.

Glendale locations are:

- National Bank of Arizona, 9878 W. Camelback Rd., Thursdays 12-3 p.m., February 2-April 12.
- Vineyard Church, 6250 W. Peoria Avenue, Wednesdays 5-8 p.m., February 1-April 11.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Understanding Your Monthly Sewer Charges. Each year during the month of May, your sewer charge is recalculated based on your actual water usage billed during the months of January, February and March. All customers have a water meter to determine water consumption, however, there is no way to measure how many gallons each customer sends into the sewer system. It is estimated that 90% of all water used in a single-family home during the three month winter averaging period goes into the sewer system and the remaining 10% is used for drinking, cooking, landscaping and other outside uses.

It is prudent to carefully watch the amount of water used during January, February and March to ensure that the sewer portion of your bill is calculated on the lowest water use possible. If you find that you may have used extra water at that time due to a leak, filling a pool or just watering winter grass, there is a form that is available to appeal the higher than normal water use. Call 623-930-3190 to request a form or [click here](#) and scroll down to "Sewer Appeal Process" to download a copy. Appeal requests are accepted within 60 days of the May billing and the time to conserve is NOW!

HOA Academy and Glendale University Classes. The Neighborhood Partnership Office is pleased to offer the Winter 2012 HOA Academy. If you currently serve on or are considering serving on an HOA board or live in an HOA and want to know more about how your HOA runs, the HOA Academy will give you the information you need. The training is taught by HOA attorneys, property management professionals, city staff and other industry professionals. The series of eight classes are free to Glendale residents; when space allows, non-residents may attend, paying a \$20 fee the evening of the first class.

The Winter 2012 HOA Training Academy classes are now scheduled for Tuesday evenings from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on January 24, and 31; February 7, and Wednesday, February 15. Saturday morning classes are from 9 to 11:30 a.m. January 28, February 4, 11, and 18.

The Spring 2012 Glendale University semester will also be starting on March 12th. Glendale University City Government "101" is a free educational program offered in partnership with Cox Communications and is open to Glendale residents age 16 and older who want to learn more about the operations of municipal government. This is a 10-week course, presented by Mayor and Council, department heads and key city personnel.

Please contact the Neighborhood Partnership Office at 623-930-2868 or [click here](#) to sign up for either program.

Around Town

Make Your Reading Playlist! Read for the fun of it and win prizes. Teens, ages 12-18, can stop by the Velma Teague Branch Library, 7010 N. 58th Ave., Foothills Branch, 19055 N. 57th Ave., or Main Library, 5959 W. Brown Street, to participate in the "Make Your Reading Playlist" reading program now until April 1. Read six books and win a prize after the first, third, and sixth book you read. Call 623-930-3431 for more information.

The Business Forum. Business networking through The Business Forum at Glendale Library is a productive way of establishing beneficial relationships with potential clients and area business people. On Wednesday, February 1, the group will meet in the large meeting room at Glendale Main Library, 5959 W. Brown Street. The free event is from 5:30–7:15 p.m. February speaker, Jeff Gottschalk will present "Marketing with QR Codes: How QR Codes Can Grow Your Bottom Line!" Call 602-725-3246 for more information about the program or to RSVP.

Free SAT Practice Test. Teens ages 14-19 can experience the SAT under true-to-life testing conditions at 1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 11 at Velma Teague Library, 7010 N. 58th Avenue. Test-takers will have the opportunity to learn more about the SAT and test-taking strategies. For researching college and financial aid options, attend the free follow-up strategy session (Feb. 16 at 6:30 p.m.). Register for both events by calling 1-800-2REVIEW or online at www.PrincetonReview.com.

22nd Annual Antique Tractor Show. Join us for the Tractor Show from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 11 and Sunday, Feb. 12 at Sahuaro Ranch Park, 9802 N. 59th Avenue. Enjoy tractor pulls, displays and more. The cost is \$5 per person, ages 12 and under are free. Presented by the Arizona Early Day Gas Engine & Tractor Association. For more information, call 623-930-4200.

Contact Councilmember Alvarez

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